

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Rep. Murr- Helping the Llano

The Llano River received some assistance from Representative Andy Murr today.

Representative Murr, at the request of the Alliance, sent TCEQ a request for a Public Meeting regarding the renewal permit for the City of Junction's wastewater treatment facility. Through this action, the community will be guaranteed the opportunity to ask questions about the permit.

See More Murr page 2

Seven Hundred Springs Tour Tomorrow-10AM

To see these spectacular headwater springs along the South Llano, meet at the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction to caravan to the springs. **Departure is at 10am sharp!!**



From the Courthouse, the caravan proceeds the 21 miles to the springs. The tour is very informal,

but informative presentations regarding the history and geology of the springs will be provided. It is suggested to bring a hat, folding chairs, a lunch, and a jacket.

There is no charge for the tour, but donations may be made to the Kimble County Historical Society.

Rep. Murr's Bill for Protecting portions of the Llano from Quarries

Representative Andy Murr from Junction has filed legislation this session that provides the North and South Llano rivers protections from quarries along the rivers. The legislation, House Bill 2426, piggy backs on a 20-year pilot program established in 2005 by the Legislature that protects sections of the Brazos River under the John Graves Scenic Riverway from degradation by quarries.

Under Rep. Murr's proposed legislation, the North and South Llano river in Kimble County would be designated the Coke Stevenson Scenic Riverway and would be afforded the same protections as the segment of the Brazos along the John Graves Scenic Riverway. These protections include the prohibition of the *construction or expansion of a quarry* located between 200 and 1,500 feet of the river unless operators satisfy several requirements related to preventing erosion, siltation, and runoff to the waterway and damage to fish and wildlife habitat.

The Alliance knows of no existing quarry along the North or South Llano that would be affected by this requirement. In addition, the legislation requires TPWD and LCRA to coordinate aerial inspections and water sampling along segments of the proposed Riverway.

The Alliance will be testifying in favor of the legislation before the House Natural Resources Committee next Tuesday morning in Austin.

Your Chance to Comment

...or you don't have to drive to Austin to make your voice heard.

To accommodate public testimony during Covid-19 times, the Legislature has made it a bit easier to comment remotely on proposed legislation. Texas residents may submit comments electronically by [clicking here](#).

Important Note: You may only submit your comments once the House Natural Resource Committee session begins on Tuesday, April 27 at 8am. Comments may be submitted until the hearing is adjourned. Comments are limited to 3,000 characters.

Opportunity to Improve your Riparian Zone

Still Openings Available for Site Visits

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is offering riparian landowners the opportunity to give an additional kick-start to helping their riparian areas, especially those areas damaged by the 2018 flood.

Over the next few months, LRWA will be offering on-site technical guidance visits to inform landowners of the role of properly functioning riparian areas provide to the aquatic ecosystems and the Best Management Practices (and plants) to restore these areas.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact southllanoriver@gmail.com.

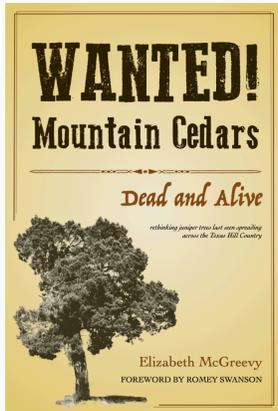
There is no charge for this consultation or for the plantings.



Photos: Ryan McGillicuddy, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Mountain Cedar

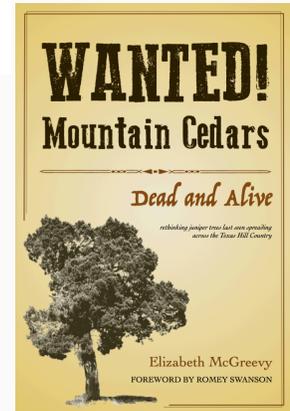
Editor's Note: This new book, mentioned in the newsletter last month, is now available for purchase. It should prove to be an interesting read. Hopefully the stories clearly distinguish whether they occurred in the western portions of the Hill Country or in the cedar breaks in eastern portions along the Balcones Canyonlands, as the historical coverage by 'cedars' was likely different between the two.



Spicewood Publications is pleased to announce the release of Elizabeth McGreevy's book

Wanted! Mountain Cedars, Dead and Alive

PURCHASE AT [BARNESANDNOBLE.COM](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)



Wanted! Mountain Cedars, Dead and Alive tells the story of Mountain Cedar trees that grow in the Texas Hill Country. Over the last 100 years, these trees have been characterized as non-native, water-hogging, grass-killing, toxic, useless species to justify their removal. The result has been a glut of Mountain Cedar tall tales and anti-cedar sentiments. Inside this ambitious, well-researched book, natural resources consultant and ecologist Elizabeth McGreevy presents another perspective of these trees, also known as Ashe Junipers or Blueberry Junipers. While digging into Texas Hill Country politics, history, economics, culture, and ecology, McGreevy tracks down the origins of each tall tale to determine what is true, what is false, and what lies somewhere in between. She also explains why people respected Mountain Cedars before the 1900s, and what events led to the trees' downfall and the landscape we see today. Through a series of arguments, this book serves to replace anti-cedar sentiments with a more constructive, less emotional approach to Hill Country land management and a perspective that not all Mountain Cedars are bad.

Wanted! Mountain Cedars is an eye-opening game changer for those willing to read with an open and reasoned mind — but be prepared to have some sacred cows challenged.

— **Steve Nelle**, author of *Your Remarkable Riparian* and former NRCS Wildlife Biologist

~No newsletter next week~